

Robert Greene Sterne  
Edward J. Kessler  
Jorge A. Goldstein  
David K.S. Cornwell  
Robert W. Esmond  
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin  
Michele A. Cimbala  
Michael B. Ray  
Robert E. Sokohl  
Eric K. Steffe  
Michael Q. Lee  
Steven R. Ludwig  
John M. Covert  
Linda E. Alcorn  
Robert C. Millonig  
Lawrence B. Bugaisky  
Donald J. Featherstone  
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim  
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.  
Patrick E. Garrett  
Jeffrey T. Helvey  
Heidi L. Kraus  
Albert L. Ferro\*  
Donald R. Banowitz  
Peter A. Jackman  
Teresa U. Medler  
Jeffrey S. Weaver  
Kendrick P. Patterson  
Vincent L. Capuano  
Eldora Ellison Floyd  
Thomas C. Fiala  
Brian J. Del Buono  
Virgil Lee Beaton  
Theodore A. Wood  
Elizabeth J. Haanes

Joseph S. Ostroff  
Frank R. Cottingham  
Christine M. Lhulier  
Rae Lynn P. Guest  
George S. Bardmesser  
Daniel A. Klein\*  
Jason D. Eisenberg  
Michael D. Specht  
Andrea J. Kamage  
Tracy L. Muller\*  
LuAnne M. DeSantis  
Ann E. Summerfield  
Aric W. Ledford\*  
Helene C. Carlson  
Timothy A. Doyle\*  
Gaby L. Longworth  
Lori A. Gordon\*  
Nicole D. Dretar\*

Ted J. Ebersole  
Jyoti C. Iyer\*  
Laura A. Vogel  
  
**Registered Patent Agents\***  
Karen R. Markowicz  
Nancy J. Leith  
Matthew J. Dowd  
Aaron L. Schwartz  
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach  
Bryan L. Skelton  
Robert A. Schwartzman  
Teresa A. Colella  
Jeffrey S. Lundgren  
Victoria S. Rutherford  
Michelle K. Holoubek  
Robert H. DeSeims  
Simon J. Elliott

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Julie A. Heider  
Mita Mukherjee  
Scott M. Woodhouse  
Michael G. Penn  
Christopher J. Walsh

**Of Counsel**  
Kenneth C. Bass III  
Evan R. Smith  
Marvin C. Guthrie

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September 8, 2004

**WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:**  
(202) 772-8615

**INTERNET ADDRESS:**  
FRANKC@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 1634**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/599,594; Filed: June 22, 2000  
For: **Primers and Methods for the Detection and Discrimination of Nucleic Acids**  
Inventors: Nazarenko *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4980002/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
4. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of **\$1,220.00** to cover the following fees:  
\$950.00 - Extension of time;  
\$270.00 - Excess claims; and
5. Return postcard.

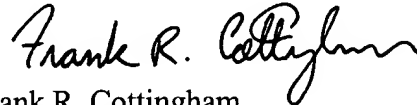
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
September 8, 2004  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank R. Cottingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "Cottingham" clearly legible.

Frank R. Cottingham  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 50,437

FRC/pcd  
Encls.

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